

May Day:

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SOUTH VIET NAM

Southwest of HUE: 34 Choppers Downed in One Day.

KHE SANH Sector: Nearly 1,000 G.I.'s Killed or Wounded in One Week.

SAIGON Area: One Puppet Battalion and 2 Companies Wiped Out. 100 G.I.'s Killed or Wounded.

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NORTH VIET NAM

9 U.S. Planes Downed in 2 Consecutive Days Including the Third F.111-A.

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U.S. OB DURATELY STEPS UP WAR OF DESTRUCTION IN NORTH VIET NAM AND COMMITS CRIMES IN THE SOUTH

WHILE deliberately putting forward preposterous conditions to delay preliminary contacts with the D.R.V.N. for 6 days running from April 15 to 20, the U.S. government launched against the D.R.V.N. air raids three times (twice that previously.

On April 15, U.S. planes dropped a dozen bombs on a village in Thanh Hoa district, Ha Tinh province, causing many casualties among the inhabitants.

On April 16, 40 U.S. bombs were released on two localities in Quang Binh and Nghe An provinces. The same day U.S. war ships shelled a coastal village in Vinh Linh area, inflicting on the people great losses in lives and property.

The following days, U.S. air raids were stepped up. On April 18, a populated area 15 km south of Thanh Hoa town was savagely attacked but the U.S. claimed no raids had been flown above the 19th parallel. On April

19, about 600 bombs were dropped on 40 localities in nearly all the districts of Ha Tinh province, savagely killing many local people.

Furthermore, on these days, U.S. planes were very active in the provinces of Ha Bac, Nam Ha, Vinh Phuc, Hoa Binh, Bao Thai, Ha Tay, Quang Ninh, Thanh Hoa, Thai Binh, Yen Bai, Hanoi and Hai Phong.

USIS admitted that on April 18, U.S. planes had made 15 sorties over North Viet Nam. AFP and Reuters confirmed that this was the highest number of air sorties recorded in one day since the beginning of 1968.

Paralleled with the stepping up of the war of destruction against North Viet Nam, U.S. troops have committed many crimes in the South.

On April 14, a war ship of the 7th Fleet attacked U Minh jungle, Co Mau province, with shells and rockets, causing 80 big fires, some

of them gutting an area 20 km each side, and lasting for many days. On April 18, U.S. planes dropped napalm and petrol on this jungle, to stir up the flames and fired shells and rockets on the hamlets within and without the jungle, destroying many dwelling houses and craft and causing losses in lives and property to the population.

There has been no clearer evidence of the U.S. government's obduracy and belligerence.

Latest News

P.L.A.F. COMMAND'S 5th SPECIAL COMMUNIQUE

IN 75 days the people's and revolutionary forces upset the enemy's battle array, inflicted heavy losses on him and driven him onto the path to inescapable defeat:

- 200,000 KILLED, WOUNDED OR CAPTURED (INCLUDING 60,000 U.S. AND FOREIGN MERCENARIES).
- 3 ARMoured REGIMENTS, A GROUP OF PARA BATTALIONS, 73 BATTALIONS, 270 COMPANIES, 10 ARMoured SQUADRONS WIPED OUT OR DEPLETED.
- 2,500 AIRCRAFT, 2,380 TANKS AND ARMoured VEHICLES, 330 SHIPS AND MILITARY CRAFT, 346 GUNS DESTROYED OR PUT OUT OF ACTION.
- SEVERAL HUNDRED THOUSAND PUPPET TROOPS HAVE DEFECTED AND LARGE AREAS LIBERATED.

On the Choice of a Site for D.R.V.N.-U.S. Preliminary Contacts

U.S. DIPLOMACY SLIGHTS RESPECT FOR COMMITMENTS

FOUR weeks have elapsed since the D.R.V.N. Government declared its readiness for preliminary contacts with the U.S. Government and suggested two meeting places. These four weeks were, alas, wasted by the Americans on an escalation game on the conditions for the choice of such a site.

They who have insisted so much on "prompt talks" and "talk without conditions," they who have declared that "if they only let me know when and where [the talks will take place]," they who have said that "there needs only a room and a table" and "the U.S. president will have his 'closest and most trusted associates at that time and at that place in a matter of hours," now come out with two, then four terms for the choice of the site.

Here are, first of all, these two prerequisites: the country where the contacts will take place must be a neutral country, and there must be an American embassy there. And "the four things which you have to have": good communication facilities; a place without psychological advantage for either side; access for news coverage; and a place where the Saigon puppets and other satellites of the U.S. have their representation. It should be noted that in setting the latter condition—which seems to boil down rather to a point of procedure for the official talks between the D.R.V.N. and the United States—the U.S. Government has committed right away a crude provocation against the Vietnamese people.

ESCALATION IN SUGGESTIONS FOR A SITE

ALL these conditions have thus put an end to the old refrain: "The U.S. is ready to go anywhere at any time" to achieve peace. This "Bible of Negotiations," as was called by the U.S. on April 12, must as of now disappear from the American propaganda arsenal.

In its place, there has appeared another threat of U.S. propaganda: the Americans' generosity in the offer of possible sites for the preliminary contacts. At first, they suggested five places, now they have added ten. A real escalation! Look, they said, the United States and the D.R.V.N. may be parted in the choice of the site, so we have invited three countries to make proposals and these ten new names include suggestions which are theirs.

A three-card play! It tends to put on the same footing the views of the victors of aggression that - the D.R.V.N. is and those of the aggressor that the American imperialists are. It also aimed at eliciting the sympathy of certain countries and comforting others. What is ludicrous in it is that the great majority of the names suggested do not meet even the four criteria of the United States.

This galore of names proposed by the U.S. has but called back to mind another American stunt: on one fine day of 1967 the services of Mr. Johnson listed as many as 23 peace efforts" of the U.S. A few days later 38, then 41 "peace efforts." However,

(Continued page 2)

DESPITE rains of U.S. bombs and machine gun bullets on our country in the South, as well as in the North, our working class and people in the international Labour Day in an absolute confidence in the triumph of our just cause.

On May Day this year, in the world as well as in Viet Nam, more than ever, it is clear that the forces of socialism and independence are prevailing over those of imperialism and the forces of peace over those of war.

In the world, dozens of years since the magnificent action of Chicago workers for the 8-hour working day, the revolutionary struggle of the world working class has been marked by more and more extensive actions and bigger and bigger successes.

The last decades have seen the birth and growth of the socialist camp which is asserting itself as "the decisive factor in the development of human society."

decades to be the leading force in the whole country has been making a distinguished contribution to the nation's drive for independence and freedom and to the fight of the world working class and people for peace, democracy and socialism.

Since 1930, led by its Leninist Party—formerly the Indo-Chinese Communist Party, now the Viet Nam Workers' Party—the Vietnamese working class has constantly been in the frontline of the struggle. Since 1929, it has taken over the banner of national independence from bourgeois and petty-bourgeois parties. Having as a close ally the peasantry in the rural areas, the working class with which it has maintained a close relationship, it has drawn other sections of the people into a fierce struggle against colonialism and its local henchmen: the landlords and reactionary comprador-capitalists. With the working class in the forefront, our people brought

to the men in the White House and Pentagon that, despite the bombs showered on the D.R.V.N., the economic and military potentials of the latter would continue to increase and the material and technical basis of socialism continue to be established successfully.

To these victories of great significance our working class makes a continuous and ever more important contribution as the vanguard revolutionary force. To try by all means to maintain and step up production, to work hard and requires gigantic efforts, a lot of wit and a great sense of responsibility. "To bring to your workbench, your ship, the steering wheel of your lorry" when enemy planes are roaring overhead and bombs are exploding around you, "to beat a hammer in one hand and a gun in another" is a struggle you must wage every day, every minute.

To repair one's machine gun nest set up on the roof of a workshop or at the prow of a ship when enemy planes are coming, to resume work when they have flown away or crashed down, to adopt a mode of life suitable to wartime, to improve the material and cultural life in war conditions, to "draw bombs' explosion with one's singing" testifies to a grim resolve to create for oneself an intensely beautiful life, and also an unshakable confidence in the future, a future which is now being shaped by the Viet Nam working class for itself and for its entire people.

OUR working class and people have a firm confidence in victory. This stems from the traditions of our people, who, in their multi-millenary history, have routed the most savage aggressors from the Ganges Khan-billiers in the 13th century to the army of the Mikado in the 19th century. This derives from our national motto: "Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom." This springs from the righteousness of our cause backed by the world working class and people, including the American people, the recipients of the Chicago tradition with its historical First of May 1886.

On May Day this year when our victory over U.S. imperialism is in sight, our working class and people are resolved to live up to the pledge taken by the July 19, 1966: "For the defence of the independence of the Fatherland and for the fulfillment of our obligation to the peoples struggling against U.S. imperialism, our people and army, united as one man, will resolutely fight till complete victory whatever the sacrifices and hardships may be."

An Arsenal Girl-Mechanic

TOOT just past seventeen when she came to work at the arsenal.

For the first time in her life she stood by your pieces of machine, she had seen some before, wrapped in tarpaulin, from afar. She had looked at them with a keen interest, curiously, and dreamt of becoming a mechanic.

A Kyoto University lecturer, married with many children, Doctor of Agronomy, Luong Dinh Cua could have spent quiet days in the Country of the Quiet Moon until the end of turmoil. But he could not bear the idea of remaining outside the struggle waged by his country to wrest back independence and freedom. So he left Japan in 1955 for the resistance bases in Viet Bac (mountain regions of North Viet Nam). But the hazard of the trail landed him in Saigon and only at the end of 1954 was he able to join the liberated areas.

The most precious thing he made a point of taking with him when stealing away from Saigon was a small brochure bag containing many varieties and hybrids of rice he had spent years to develop, among them a nice variety of rapid growth (95 days instead of a minimum of 120 days): the "Nong Nghiep 1" which Luong Dinh Cua succeeded in acclimating in Bac Bo (North Viet Nam) after his regroupment to the North. This rice variety has greatly contributed to the carrying out of an important directive of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and D.R.V.N. government, which was to develop agricultural production with various methods including the increase and rotation of crops. Other creations by Luong Dinh Cua (rice varieties 813, 816, 127, "Chien Trang"—immune to a rice disease called, "yellow degeneracy," new varieties of water lilies, summer

Gun-repairing had been until then a men's job, feared by the girl's mother. Under the leadership of the arsenal, however, decided to help her learn her apprenticeship. A course was specially prepared for her.

The first lesson dealt with the oil-brake. Toot knew it was an important part of a car and learned theory and practice with diligence. Once, it occurred that oil leaked out of the brake-box she had just fitted up. Literally intrigued she set to finding out the cause for it, resolutely, forgetting now to rest.

The first lesson made quick headway, she was entrusted with the repairing of a brake-box, a difficult job which required precision. In order to see how it worked she took it to pieces, then fitted it up again, several times running. She studied every detail of the component parts each day. She put them all on a tray, that her eyes would look them all over another, trying to recognize each. In next to no time she succeeded in assembling them together and

fitting up the box. After the second experiment she got the whole set-up on her finger tips.

So much so that one year of apprenticeship made her a good mechanic.

One day Toot was told off to put in order a gun about a workshop. What a surprise for the sailors to see her getting into the workshop after hours of study! Overcoming her emotion she set to work and quickly found out what was wrong with the equipment. After an hour it was able to work again.

Since then, as a mechanic by trade she has been to many battalions. After repairing a piece of equipment she never forgot to say to the gunners: "Write to me whenever I've brought down an enemy aircraft!"

New Toot has a thick file of letters. They came from all parts of the country, from the appreciation of her contribution to the success of our anti-aircraft defence.

In the People's Service

occurens, dwarf sorghum, etc.—serve the same purpose, i.e., to develop agricultural production in order definitively to stamp out famine which was plaguing for thousands of years the overpopulated provinces of the Bac Bo delta.

During the First Five-Year Plan (1961-1965) where stress was laid on the application of advanced farming technique, Luong Dinh Cua was seen scouring the countryside to put his knowledge at the disposal of the local authorities. By studying the time-honoured experience of the peasants he improved scientific data. He then used the simplest words to popularize science among the masses. Of course, Luong Dinh Cua is not the only scientist who lifts into shape "the methods of cultivation which make the 5 tons of paddy yield per hectare per year on large areas" and these methods could not be worked out without the help of millions and millions of peasants. But it is safe to say that Luong Dinh Cua has put his heart and soul in it. How much effort and patience it took to determine the process of production and technical basis for co-operatives, the organization of work at co-operative, village, district and province level! One should have other things in one's heart

beside love of science to find, say, the best method to transplant rice seedlings. Luong Dinh Cua said: "I could hardly bear the weight of peasants bent under the weight of heavy bundles of rice plants or twisting their bodies each time they bury the roots of rice plants into the mud. I buckled down to observing their movements and devised new ones."

I suggested that rice plants should be transplanted in bundles and that transplanters to keep the roots toward them and to press rice plants down into the mud with the fingers of the open hand without the need to bend the body. By so doing, not only is the work less arduous and three or four times quicker but the rice plants strike their roots into the mud more easily and quickly. This is also the starting point of a new transplanting technique: in straight rows so as to make it possible to use weedeaters which can relieve and greatly speed up and improve weeding. In fact the innovation was not only one motivated by humanitarian considerations but also a scientific discovery in every sense of the word.

Luong Dinh Cua is unassuming. He never speaks of himself and of his discoveries. He thinks that they are the work of a great many people. He adds that these discoveries would not have been possible had agricultural co-operatives not been brought to a high organizational level (localities of co-operatives). All that is true, but one should not forget that it was he who hit upon the ideas and thanks to these innovations the work of millions of farmers is lightened and more productive; and the objective net for agriculture to raise "5 tons of paddy per hectare per year on large areas" has been achieved. This is a distinguished contribution to the people's struggle for national independence, freedom and socialism.

That is why this scientist who is frequently seen working in ricefields rather than in his laboratories, has been made a "Hero of Socialist Labour" and a "Hero of Socialist Labour" since since many of these establishments were used to contrast to build military installations for the U.S. According to AP, within only 4 months, in the admission of the U.S. Embassy in Saigon, 43 disputes and strikes broke out in the company for better working conditions

MAY 1st, 1967: Braving the ban on demonstration ordered by the puppet administration and breaking through an over

To 20,000-strong riot police, workers and other labourers in Saigon, Cho Lon and Gia Dinh took to the streets. Demonstrators carried banners and placards with English slogans highlighting the insistent demands:

— Cut down the price of rice and foodstuffs!

— Oppose the replacement of Vietnamese workers by foreign workers!

— Food and clothing in stead of bombs and bullets!

— End indiscriminate bombing!

— Down with the police state!

— Foreigners (i.e. U.S.-Ed.) must respect Vietnamese sovereignty!

An AP correspondent in Saigon admitted that the demonstration "has a distinctive anti-American and anti-government tone." Not only in Saigon, but also in all other towns and cities of South Viet Nam the workers and labouring people also display the fighting spirit inherent in their class. In Cu Man, a provincial capital at the southernmost tip of South Viet Nam, 3,000 people took part in the walk-out, market strike and demonstration against the puppet administration of the people and denounce the use of napalm and toxic chemicals against

the people and crops.

The above-mentioned actions marked a new step forward in the movement of the working class and labouring people in the urban areas of South Viet Nam. They voiced, in the context of the anti-imperialist struggle, their own demands for better livelihood but also their eager aspiration for peace, independence and democracy for South Viet Nam urban population. To some extent they were also indications of the growing position of the entire Vietnamese people in their resistance to U.S. aggression and for national liberation, the heavy setbacks of the U.S. and the irreversible doom of the Saigon puppet administration touched off by the 1966 Winter-1967 Spring campaign of the patriotic forces.

In the past year since May 1st, 1967 the large-scale struggle of the workers and labouring people in South Viet Nam urban areas has been gaining in strength and scope. Most remarkable were the activities of those in the key services in Saigon—Cho Lon and Da Nang and even in the military and supply bases.

Conceding this point, AP February 6, 1968 reported that workers at many of the enterprises and the American capitalist companies of the demands of 17 trade unions of the power and sugar, rubber, and other industries, the communication and transport service and the oil supply service in Saigon (May 1967) and the strike of 200 workers of Esao, an important oil distribution centre of the U.S. in Qui Nhon, which was supported by their colleagues the Tan Son Nhut and Nha Be POL workers in Saigon (August 1967), the strikes of dockers at the ports of Rach Dau and Cape St. Jacques (June 1967), of workers in the U.S. company "Equiment" in Thu Dau (September 1967), of 1,500 workers at the airfields of the U.S. Air Base and Binh Dien (Aug. 1967) and of workers and employees of the Pan American Airways (December 1967), were vivid illustrations.

In particular, the protracted walk-out of 45,000 Vietnamese workers in the rubber establishments of the RMR-DRJ company has had a major effect since many of these establishments were used to contrast to build military installations for the U.S. According to AP, within only 4 months, in the admission of the U.S. Embassy in Saigon, 43 disputes and strikes broke out in the company for better working conditions

and pay rises and against ill treatment and beating by U.S. troops and agents, the puppet administration, and their replacement by foreign workers.

SINCE the start of the 1967 Winter-1968 Spring campaign, inspired by the victories of the patriotic armed forces and the people, the workers' struggle has reached a higher stage. The workers in the urban areas of rubber workers at the power and water supply service, the public transport, and oil distribution services in Saigon for the release of arrested trade unionists, and all distribution services in Saigon to meet high pay and allowances, have brought to near standstill many factories and other branches of activity in the city. The puppet and the U.S., on the one hand, did their utmost to put down the strike, but on the other, had to give in to the demands of the workers. As 40,000 workers at rubber plantations also waged a persistent struggle against the armed and police actions against the wanton seizures and bombings and enemy terrorist raids. Four villages in the Ben Tre rubber plantation, The D.N.F. decorations have been awarded N.F.L. decorations for their achievements.

Meantime, in the towns and cities, especially in Saigon and Cho Lon, the workers and labouring people have organized and promoted their paramilitary activities in co-ordination with the economic and political struggle. They formed "self-defence teams" to resist raids and arrests and push the enemy's armed agents out of the cities. They confirmed many armed propaganda squads of the Viet Nam Workers' Party in the centre of Saigon. In addition, "shock brigades" have been set up and have taken part in the struggle with the Liberation Armed Forces' attacks on the nerve centres of the U.S. and its puppet administration. In part, in one way or another, in the assaults on the airfields of Tan Son Nhut, Da Nang, Bien Hoa, and Cam Ranh, the Long Binh military supply base, etc..

ALL these activities of the workers and labouring people were the forerunner of the violent revolutionary storm, the general offensive and widespread uprisings early this Spring which has been sweeping South Viet Nam.

They were in the first lines during the combat and uprisings in the streets. Their activities paved the way for the general offensive and widespread uprisings. Conceding this point, AP February 6, 1968 reported that workers at many of the enterprises and the American capitalist companies of the demands of 17 trade unions of the power and sugar, rubber, and other industries, the communication and transport service and the oil supply service in Saigon (May 1967) and the strike of 200 workers of Esao, an important oil distribution centre of the U.S. in Qui Nhon, which was supported by their colleagues the Tan Son Nhut and Nha Be POL workers in Saigon (August 1967), the strikes of dockers at the ports of Rach Dau and Cape St. Jacques (June 1967), of workers in the U.S. company "Equiment" in Thu Dau (September 1967), of 1,500 workers at the airfields of the U.S. Air Base and Binh Dien (Aug. 1967) and of workers and employees of the Pan American Airways (December 1967), were vivid illustrations.

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Together with other sections of the urban population of South Viet Nam, the workers and labouring people have entered a new period of struggle, that of relentless offensive and widespread uprisings, in order to wrest back power to the people. Now as in the past, they are upholding the vanguard banner of the working class and there is no doubt that, should it shoulder with the masses of South Vietnamese people, they will continue their triumphant march towards complete victory.

VIET NAM WORKING CLASS IN THE VAN OF ANTI-IMPERIALIST STRUGGLE

Oppressed peoples in Asia, Africa and Latin America have risen up in an irresistible drive and smashed by big chunks the abhorred colonial system. The definitive liquidation of colonialism—old and new—is the order of the day.

In the capitalist countries, the movement for peace, democracy and social progress is gaining momentum. It is imperative to point out the growing role of the U.S. working class and people in the struggle against imperialism and racial segregation represented by L.B. Johnson and his administration, and against Washington's war policy so detrimental to the interests and honour of the U.S.

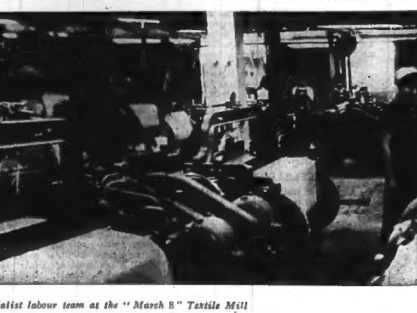
The present international juncture is dominated by the fact that a world front of the forces of progress and peace has made its appearance and is fighting resolutely against the reactionary and bellicose forces, and its action hinges on the support given to the struggle waged by our people against U.S. imperialism and for national salvation.

THOUGH relatively young and small in number, the Vietnamese working class has been proved during four

the August 1945 revolution to success and founded the first people's democracy in South-East Asia. With the working class at their head our people put up a valiant and heroic resistance against the French colonialists protracted resistance war which ended by the Dien Bien Phu victory considered by oppressed peoples all over the world to be theirs.

With the general attacks on urban centres and U.S. and puppet bases, the simultaneous uprisings of South Viet Nam urban and rural populations which have succeeded one another without let-up since the end of January this year our people's struggle against U.S. imperialism and for national salvation has taken a new turn, very hard and very complex but most promising! The defeat of U.S. imperialism and the victory of our people are foregone conclusions.

In North Viet Nam, our working class and people have fulfilled the objectives set by the U.S. rulers who have been waging for four years now a naval and air war of destruction against the D.R.V.N. in order to stop our assistance to our compatriots in the South, to halt our socialist construction in the North and to bomb our people and government into submission



A socialist labour team at the "March 8" Textile Mill

ON THE LARGE SOUTHERN FRONT

P.L.A.F. Keep Initiative and Attack the Enemy in All Theatres of Operation

KHE SANH Sector:
Nearly 1,000 G.I.'s Killed or Wounded in a Week
(April 17-23)

The Khe Sanh sector, the P.L.A.F. continue to inflict serious losses on the U.S. puppet troops.

On April 17, several enemy positions were attacked and throughout the day the P.L.A.F. killed or wounded more than 150 G.I.'s, destroyed or shot down 5 helicopters, and burnt a fuel dump. The U.S. Command had to evacuate 3 positions.

The next day, some 100 G.I.'s were killed or wounded in several battles. April 19 witnessed an ambush laid by the latter on Highway No. 9, east of Khe Sanh. The U.S. supply convoy lost 90 men killed or wounded.

A U.S. battalion (P.F.) was shelled at Bong Kho (8 km east of Ta Con) as well as Huc Thuong position (1 km southeast of Huong Hoa) where the enemy later had to send in 6 helicopters to remove the dead and wounded. The shelling on April 20 cost the Americans some one hundred killed or wounded.

On April 21, 3 U.S. companies rushing to Khe Sanh were intercepted by the P.L.A.F.: 105 G.I.'s were killed or wounded. The combats on April 21 and 22 to dislodge them from Hill 625, 3 km north of Lang Vay caused 300 dead or wounded among the G.I.'s. At Lang Vay itself, 60 others G.I.'s were put out of action on April 22 and another 120 on April 23 when U.S. troops attempted to retake the village. Also on April 23, an ammo-dump and a fuel depot were blown up when the P.L.A.F. gunners pounded the U.S. position at Ca Lu, 15 km east of Ta Con.

Thus, between April 17 and 23, the enemy lost nearly 1,000 men.

Southwest of HUE:
41 Captured Downed in 3 Straight Days, 34 of Them on April 19

"CAVALRYMEN" of the U.S. First Air Mobile Division recently launched an operation in the direction of the mountain region of Thua Thien province, southwest of Hue, in the provincial route No. 12 area. The operation proved very costly for the Americans.

On April 19, a large number of helicopters land G.I.'s at several points in this region. In the morning, in the very first wave, the P.L.A.F. brought down 9 choppers. At another point, another P.L.A.F. unit cut down 9 more. Throughout the day the successive attacks against this air fleet bogged 16 more U.S. choppers, bringing a total of 34, a record number of copters

grounded in a single day in South Viet Nam. 300 "cavalrymen" were killed or wounded.

Next day, paratroops were dispatched to the rescue of "cavalrymen." They suffered 130 killed or wounded and 5 copters brought down. On April 21, the survivors were assaulted and about 120 of them put out of action.

On April 23, 150 G.I.'s were killed or wounded and 4 cannons destroyed west of Route No. 12.

Thus, between April 19 and 23, U.S. cavalrymen and paratroops listed more than 650 casualties, and 41 choppers knocked down in 3 days. The P.L.A.F. company has launched an emulation campaign among the P.L.A.F. to follow the example of the American combatants in the hunt for flying ships.

SAIGON Area:
A Battalion and 2 Companies of the Puppet Army Completely Wiped Out, 100 G.I.'s Killed or Wounded, 9 War Vessels and Combat Launches Sunk or Damaged between Saigon and the Sea.

In the Saigon area, sharp fighting took place in the neighbourhood of Tan Uyen, a dozen kilometres north of the big U.S. Bien Hoa base. On April 14, at Xom Chua (4 km southwest of Tan Uyen) a puppet battalion was completely wiped out, losing 500 men killed or wounded. Two days later, 2 puppet companies suffered the same fate 1 km northeast of Tan Uyen, and the casualty list included a puppet major and a U.S. captain. Next day, it was the turn of a puppet platoon and, in 3 other places, the guerrillas put 103 enemy troops out of action, and brought down 2 helicopters.

Some 50 km north of Saigon, on April 19, the P.L.A.F. intercepted a U.S. battalion at Bo Tao and pounded the U.S. base at Phuoc Vinh. Four assaults of this U.S. battalion were repulsed and the Americans lost about 100 killed or wounded. At Phuoc Vinh, 3 helicopters and a fuel dump were set on fire and 20 Yankees put out of action.

Between Saigon and the sea, several successful attacks of the P.L.A.F. against U.S. ships and freighters were reported. On April 8, a U.S. troop transport was sunk with all men on board, 30 km southeast of Saigon on Long Tau river. Two days later a large U.S. landing craft suffered the same fate and another vessel of the same type was set ablaze on Dong Tranh river, 21 km southeast of Saigon. An enemy company was wiped out in the last attack.

Major combats took place on April 20 in 3 places situ-

ed near Ben Luc southwest of Saigon. Three puppet battalions caught in ambushes left nearly 200 killed or wounded on the battlefield while 2 helicopters were grounded.

On April 18 and 19 again in a place close to Ben Luc, the guerrillas killed or wounded some 100 enemy including a captain and a second lieutenant of the puppet army, and shot down 4 helicopters, two of them grounded by a peasant with a carbine.

Lastly, the Thu Duc officers' training school, 18 km northeast of Saigon, was violently plashed on April 17. AFP reported that hundreds of shells landed into the premises of the school.

MENTION should also be made of 3 major battles fought in the Mekong Delta by the P.L.A.F.

On April 16 in the southernmost part of the country, the Nam Can military sub-sector was overrun and the area occupied by the enemy for more than 10 years was liberated. The people's forces seized an important booty including 4 vessels and more than 100,000 rounds of ammunition.

On the same day, two puppet companies were put out of action 18 km southeast of Can Tho.

On April 29, in the Plain of Reeds, 70 km west of Saigon, a puppet ranger company lost 80 men killed or wounded.

CONGRESS

OF ALLIANCE OF FORCES FOR NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE, DEMOCRACY AND PEACE

THE Alliance of Forces for National Independence, Democracy and Peace held on April 20 and 21, 1968 its congress in a locality near Saigon—Cho Lon. *Giai Phong Press Agency* of Saigon—Gia Dinh sector reported.

The congress was attended by many personalities well known in South Viet Nam, intellectuals, professors, students, writers, journalists, industrialists, traders, employees of private enterprises, civil servants and army officers of the puppet regime. They represented various strata and tendencies, political organizations, religious sects and parties now active in South Viet Nam's towns and cities.

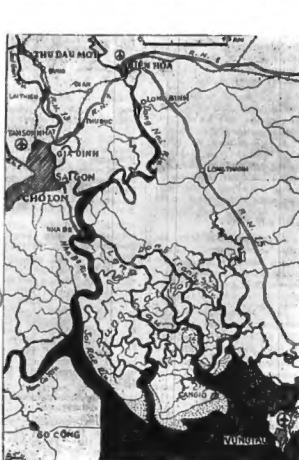
In the name of the Prepar-

atory Committee for the founding of the Alliance, Lawyer Trinh Dinh Thao delivered the opening speech.

After spirited debates, the delegates unanimously passed the manifesto for national salvation and programme of action of the Alliance. They also unanimously elected the Alliance Central Committee with Lawyer Trinh Dinh Thao as Chairman, and Mr. Lam Van Tet, an engineer and landowner, and Reverend Thich Don Hau, as vice-chairmen.

Messages and telegrams of congratulations from various sections of the people, in particular the message from the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, filled the audience with elation and enthusiasm.

Battle on the LONG TAU River



LONG TAU is unquestionably the most important waterway for the Americans in South Viet Nam. It flows Saigon to the sea and through it come 90 per cent of the enemy's arm, ammunition and food supplies.

For the same reason Long Tau is also unquestionably the most dangerous controversy for the aggressors. For each ton of military goods shipped to Saigon, they have had to pay dear in money and blood.

Enemy convoys must often fire on both banks of Long Tau or at the waterways and canals which empty into it, in order to "keep in use the trend of imaginary Viet Cong," for many a time they have been attacked and at any time the People's Liberation Armed Forces fighters can come from where nobody knows. When a ship of an important tonnage sails through Long Tau, it must always be escorted by minescrafts of the Seventh Fleet.

Navigation on the Long Tau river is all the more dangerous for the enemy chiefly because the virgin jungle of Rung Sat along its banks is crisscrossed with arrows which are an ideal base for the P.L.A.F. to attack American convoys. For their night traffic, the aggressors thus take it into their heads to

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